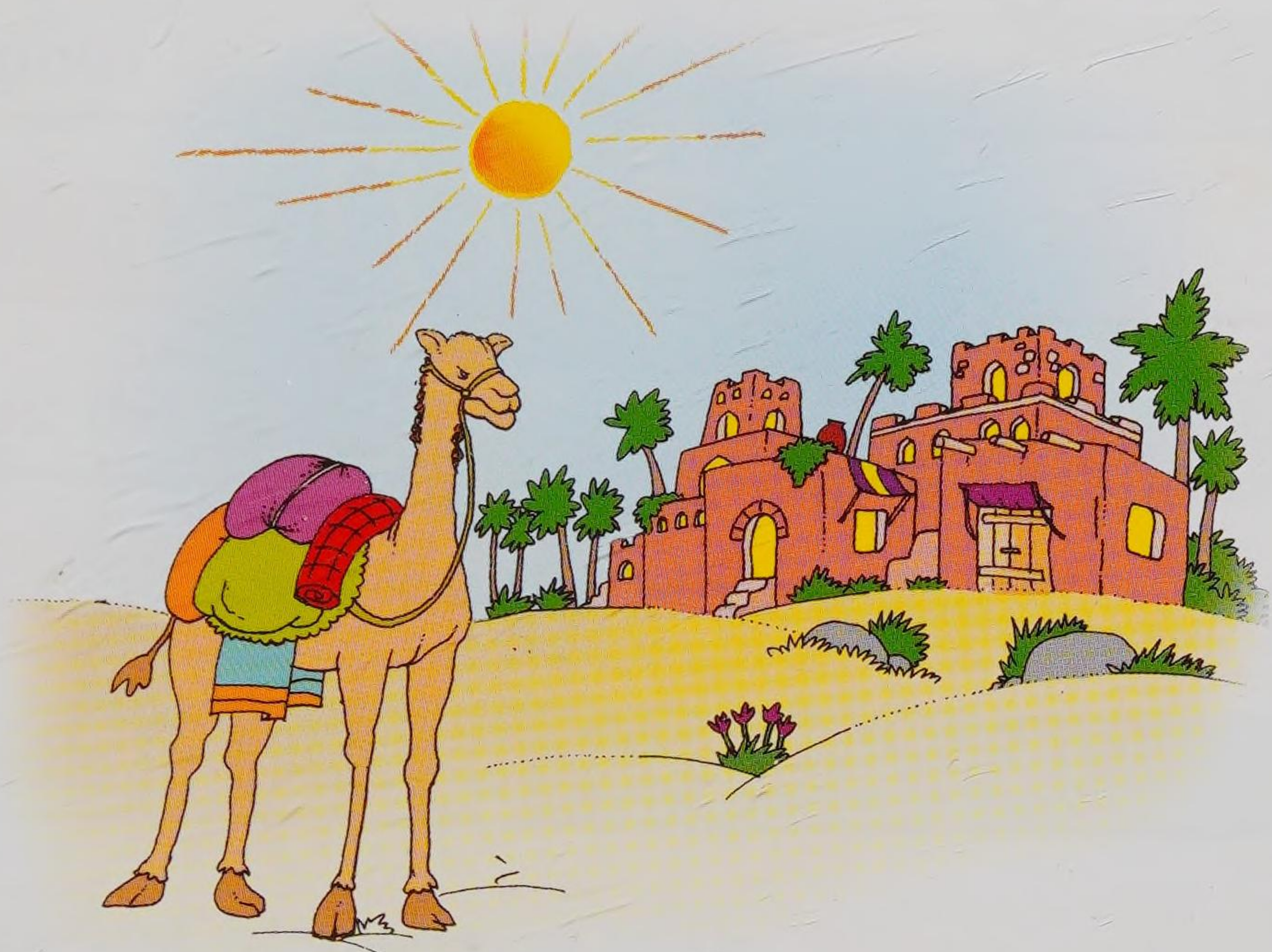


Goodword

Islamic Studies



A Graded Course Grade 3

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Goodword**kidz**
Helping you build a family of faith

What is Iman?

We know we are Muslims and that our religion is Islam. But what is it that makes us Muslims? What does the religion Islam mean? Let us find out.

Allah says in the Quran: 'I have chosen for you Islam as your religion.' (Surah al-Ma'idah, 5:3)

A Muslim is not known only by his name or face. He is known by his *iman* (faith and belief) and *aqeedah*. *Aqeedah* is the creed of Islam. The word 'creed' means a statement of belief.

All Muslims have a common belief which is known as *iman mufassal* or the complete faith. The statement of *iman mufassal* is as follows:

أَمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
وَالْقَدْرِ خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَالْبَعْثِ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ

*Amantu billahi wa malaikatihi wa kutubihi
wa rusulihi wal-yawmil-akhiri
wal-qadri khayrihi wa sharrihi min-Allahi ta'ala
wal-ba'thi ba'dal-mawt.*

This means:

I believe in Allah, and His angels, and His scriptures, and His Prophets, and the Last Day, and in Allah's Power over everything good and evil, and in Life after Death.

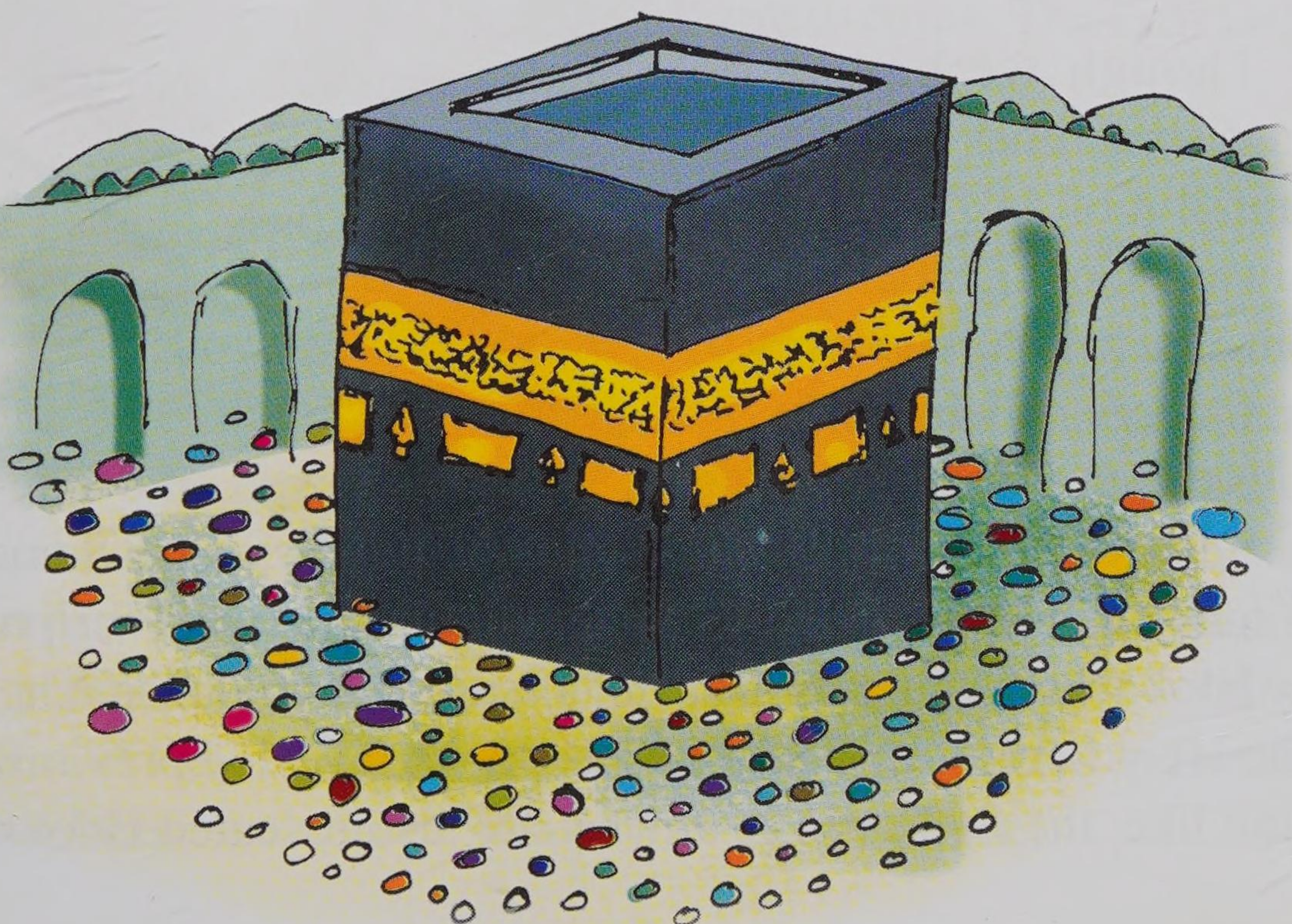
The word *iman* stands for faith. A Muslim puts his faith or believes in the following things, which are known as the ‘articles of faith’:

1. Belief in the Oneness of Allah (*at-Tawhid*)
2. Belief in the Angels (*al-Malaikah*)
3. Belief in the Scriptures of Allah (*Kutub-Allah*)
4. Belief in the Prophets of Allah (*Rasul-Allah*)
5. Belief in the Last Day (*Yawm al-Qiyamah*)
6. Belief in the Life after Death (*al-Akhirah*)

Let us learn more about these six beliefs.

Belief in the Oneness of Allah (*at-Tawhid*)

Allah is the Creator of all things. He is the only object of worship and nothing else and no one else deserves to be worshipped. Muslims believe in the oneness of Allah, such as, He was not born, He does not give birth, He has no wife, children, or father or mother or any type of partner. This oneness of Allah is termed *at-Tawhid*.



Belief in the Angels (*al-Malaikah*)

While creating everything in the universe, Allah also created the angels from divine light or *nur*. Angels glorify, serve and worship Allah. They are not visible to the human eye but they can take different forms and shapes to become visible. Do you know:

- ☀ that it was the angel Jibril (Gabriel) who revealed the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ?
- ☀ that Izrail is the angel of death who gives believers the good news about *jannah* or paradise?
- ☀ that the angels Kiraman Katibin accompany us all the time and write down whatever good and bad we do?
- ☀ that the angels Munkar and Nakir question the dead in the grave?

Belief in the Books of Allah (*Kutub-Allah*)

Though we human beings sometimes become unmindful of Allah, Allah is always looking after us. From time to time when we start to forget Allah and do things which are hateful in

His sight, Allah sends us His prophets with His message. Sometimes, this message is collected in the form of a scripture. A scripture is a holy book which contains Allah's message and guidance. The Quran is the Holy Scripture of Islam. The Books revealed previous to the Quran like, the *Injil* and the *Tawrat* are also revealed Books.



Belief in the Prophets of Allah (*Rasul-Allah*)

We have seen before that Allah sends His prophets to guide humankind to the right path. The prophets are human beings like us but are specially chosen by Allah to preach His message. Believing in all the prophets is essential for a Muslim. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the prophet of Islam. And he was Allah's last messenger who was sent for all humanity.

Belief in the Last Day (*Yawm al-Qiyamah*)

One day Allah will bring to an end all that He has created. This day is known as the Last Day, or *Yawm al-Akhir*. Then He will recreate us all, and gather us to judge the actions we have done in this world. He will reward the doers of good and punish the wrongdoers. This is the Day of Standing or *Yawm al-Qiyamah*, when all human beings will stand up to be judged. Both *Yawm al-Akhir* and *Yawm al-Qiyamah* are commonly known as the Last Day.

On the Last Day the mountains will crumble to dust and the skies and the sun and the moon will come to an end. All creatures in the universe will die. This Last Day is sure to come. The Last Day is an essential part of Islamic belief.

Belief in the Life After Death (*al-Akhirah*)

We read above about the Last Day when everything will come to an end. After that Allah will again give life to all human beings. All of us will be presented before Allah on that day and judged for our actions in the present world. Those whose actions are good will be rewarded with the Gardens of Paradise (*Jannah*). All evil-doers will be punished in the fire of Hell (*Jahannam*). All the dwellers of Paradise and Hell will have an eternal life. This Life after Death in which all Muslims believe, is a part of Islamic belief.

The Pillars of Islam

There are five religious duties which a Muslim must fulfil. These religious duties are:

1. *Shahadah*
2. *Salah*
3. *Zakah*
4. *Sawm*
5. *Hajj*



These five religious duties are known as *arkan al-Islam* or the 'pillars of Islam.' Let us learn what these five pillars are.

Shahadah

Shahadah is an Arabic word. It means bearing witness. All Muslims bear witness to the following:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

(Ashhadu an la ilaha illallahu wa ashhadu anna Muhammadar-rasulullah.)

This means: 'I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.'

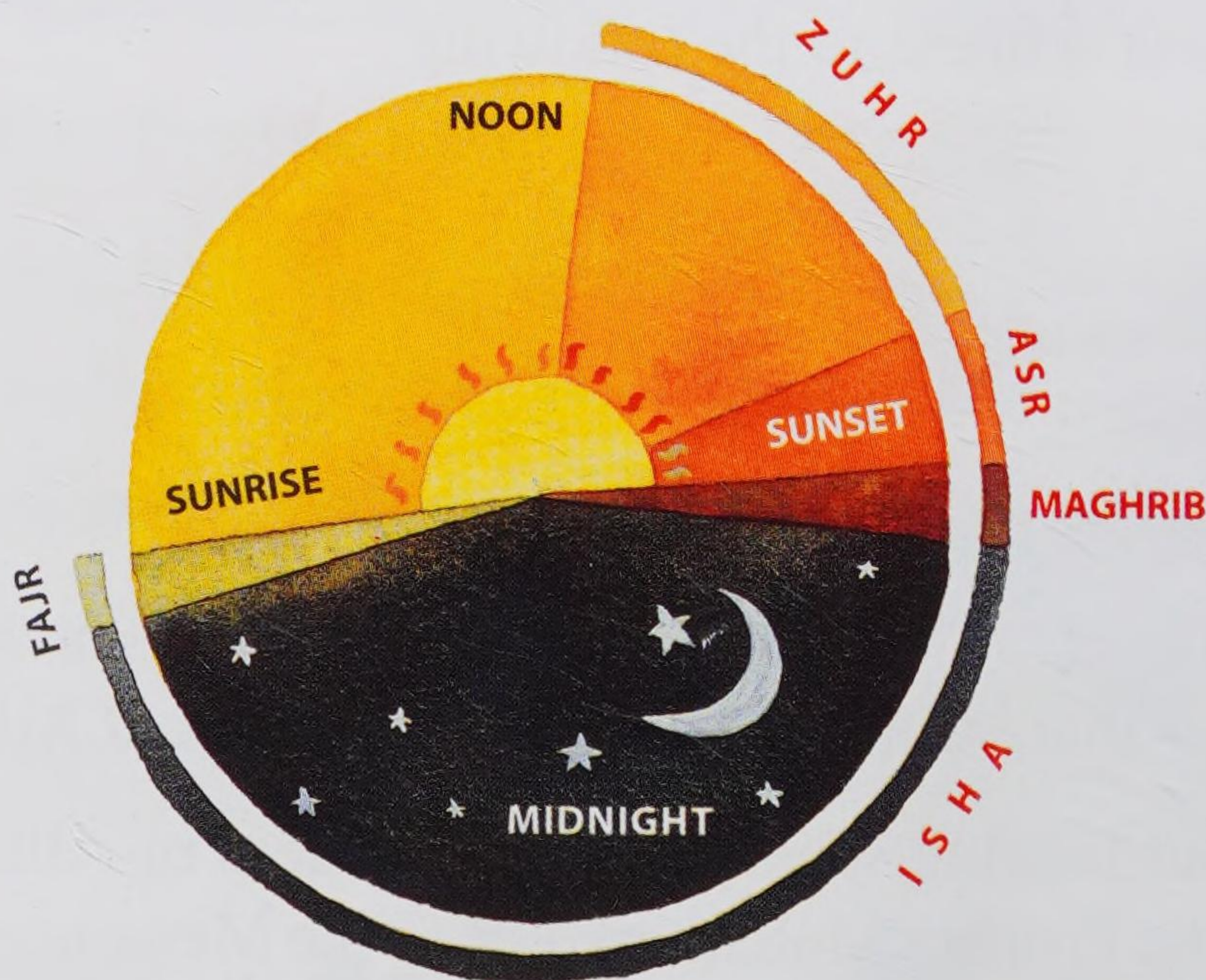
Without bearing witness to the Oneness of Allah and without accepting the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as the Messenger of Allah, one cannot be considered a Muslim. This is the first and most compulsory duty of a Muslim.

Salah (Prayer)

The *salah* is made obligatory for the believers, to be offered at fixed times. (Surah an-Nisa, 4:103)

The Arabic term *salah* means prayer. Believers are required to perform *salah* five times everyday. Allah Himself revealed this to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, when the Prophet was brought into His presence during *al-Miraj* (Ascension). In fact, Allah wanted us to pray fifty times a day, but on the request of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, this was reduced to five times. The five daily prayers are as follows:

- ☀ *Fajr* (the morning prayer)
- ☀ *Zuhr* (the noon prayer)
- ☀ *Asr* (the late afternoon prayer)
- ☀ *Maghrib* (the evening prayer)
- ☀ *Isha* (the night prayer)



Timings of Daily Prayers

On Fridays, the *zuhr* prayer is replaced by the *jumuah* prayer. These are the compulsory prayers which every Muslim should perform at the appointed times.

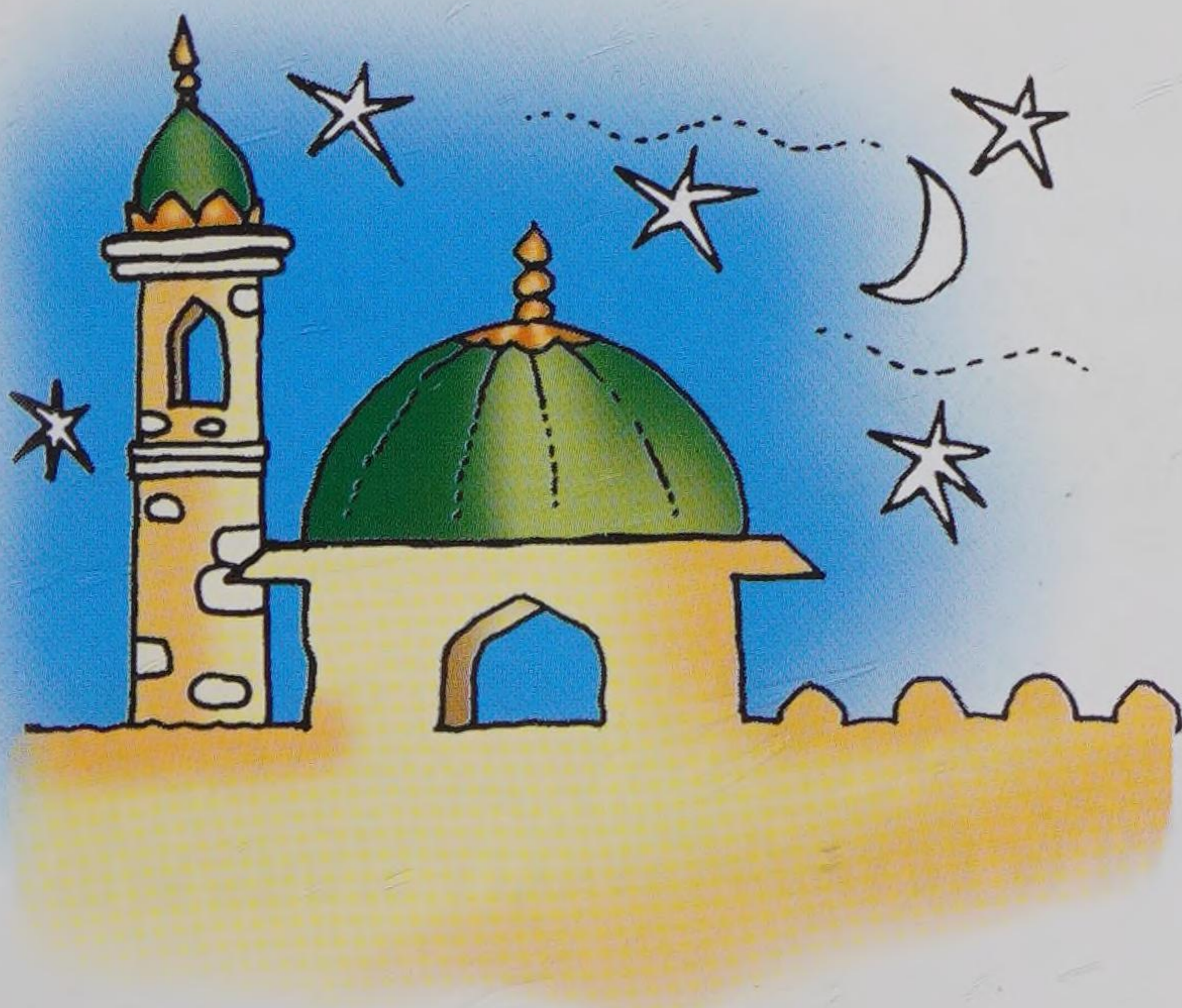
Zakah (Charity)

This is the act of spending a certain portion of one's wealth for poor and needy. This is obligatory for every Muslim who possesses the means to pay *zakah*. All Muslims are not liable to pay *zakah*. There is an amount of wealth fixed by the Islamic Law, on which, a Muslim possessing this amount is liable to pay *zakah*. *Zakah* is a system that alongwith the spritual gain uplifts poor and needy and brings about a balanced economy in society.



Sawm (Fasting)

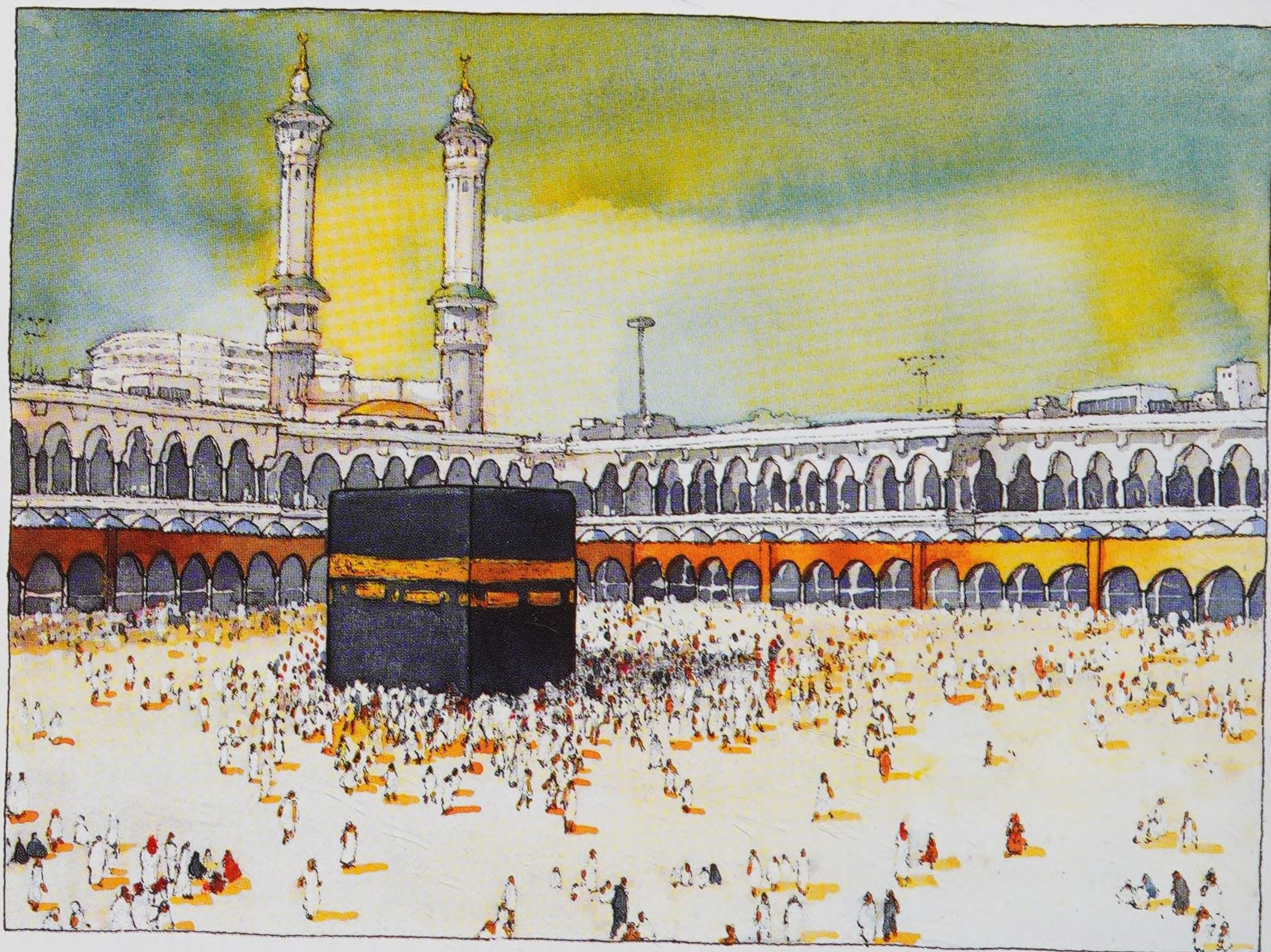
This means fasting. Fasting in the month of Ramadan is compulsory for all adult Muslims. Those who are sick or on a journey, are exempted from it. But on achieving health or completion of the



journey, the missed fasts must be made up. During the fast Muslims are required to abstain from all kind of food and drink from early morning to sunset. Fasting is an obligatory part of *ibadah* or worship.

Hajj (Pilgrimage)

The Arabic word *hajj* means pilgrimage or a religious journey to the Kabah in Makkah in the month of Dhu'l-Hijjah. All Muslims who have the means to make the journey and whose health allows them to undertake it, are compulsorily required to undertake the *hajj* at least once in their lifetime. During the *hajj*, Muslims perform a series of religious rites set by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.



The five religious duties are compulsory for all Muslims. In all circumstances Muslims are bound to discharge these duties. Whoever fails in this will incur Allah's wrath and will be punished by Allah.

Chapter 3 Prayer in Islam

In Grade-2 we learned how to offer *salah* (prayers). Let us learn a little more about the categories of *salah*. Prayers are divided into four prime categories, namely:

- ☀ *Fard* prayer
- ☀ *Wajib* prayer
- ☀ *Sunnah* prayer
- ☀ *Nafl* prayer



***Fard* prayer**

Fard means obligatory. This means that *fard* prayers are compulsory for Muslims. The *fard* prayers are commanded by Allah. If a *fard* prayer is missed for some reason, it should be made up later. The reward for praying in congregation is more than for praying alone. But the spirit that is more important is *khushu* (humility) and *khudu* (submission). It means the more effective prayers are those in which the person prays with humility and submission.

***Wajib* prayer**

This is also an obligatory prayer but of lesser importance than the *fard* prayer. The *witr* prayer offered during the *isha* prayer is a *wajib* prayer.

Sunnah prayer

Though not commanded by Allah, the *sunnah* prayers are offered by Muslims because it was the practice of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Nafl prayer

Nafl prayers are optional, or voluntary prayers which one can offer depending on one's will.

We learned above about *fard*, *wajib*, *sunnah* and *nafl* prayers. Each of the five daily prayers contain *fard* prayers. Besides, they also contain additional *sunnah*, *wajib*, and *nafl* prayers. The following table will help you know the number of each type of prayers offered at different times.

Name of Prayer	Before Fard	Fard	After Fard			
	Sunnah (rakahs)	Fard (rakahs)	Sunnah (rakahs)	Nafl (rakahs)	Wajib (rakahs)	Nafl (rakahs)
Fajr	2	2				
Zuhr	4	4	2	2		
Asr	4	4				
Maghrib	—	3	2	2		
Isha	4	4	2	2	3	2
Jumuah	4	2	4+2	2		

Quran: the Holy Scripture of Islam

We learned in Chapter 1 about the articles of *iman* (faith). Believing in the Scriptures of Allah is one of the six Muslim beliefs.

What is the Scripture of Allah? Let us learn something about it.



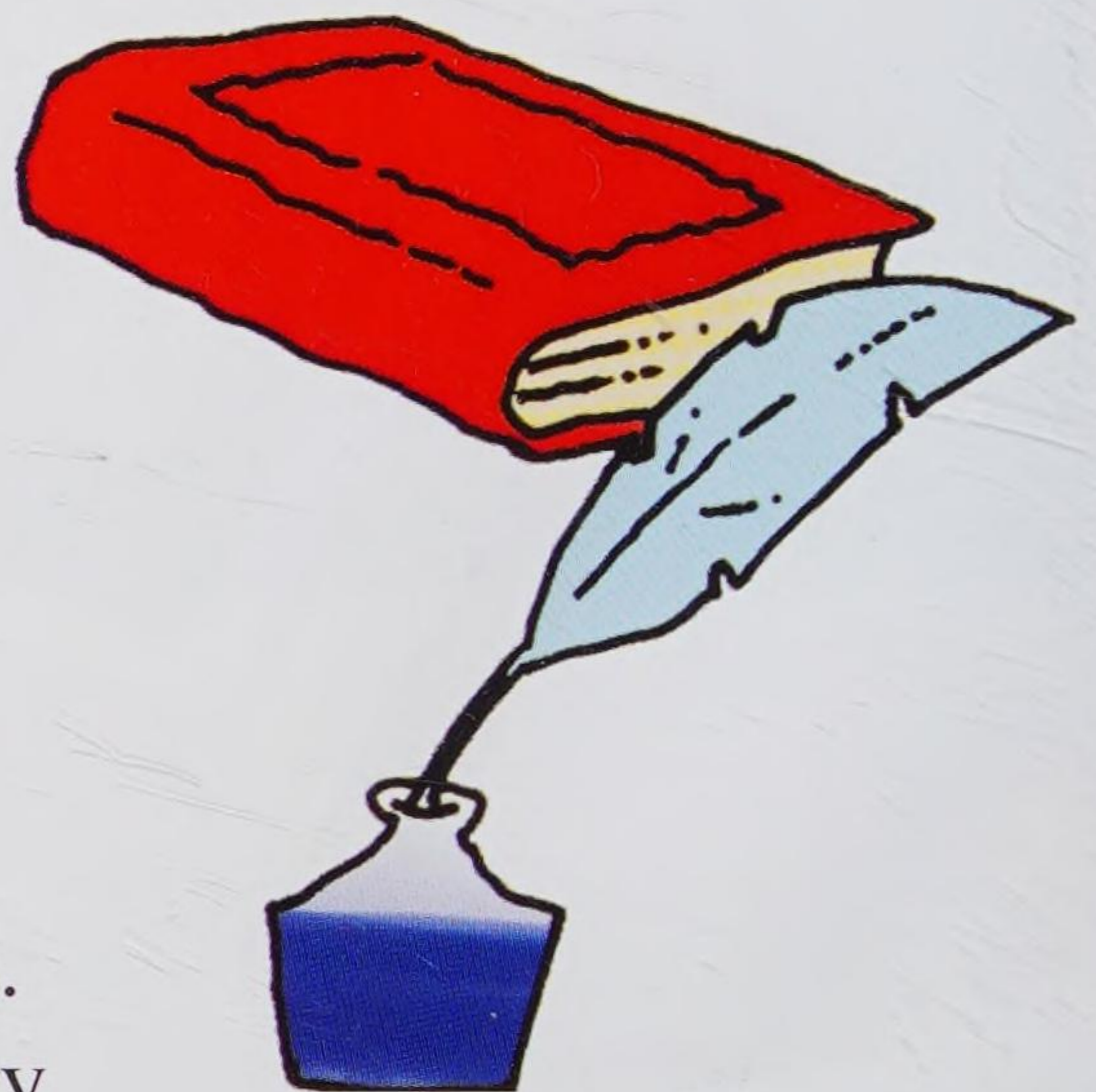
We have already seen that Allah sends His prophets to the people from time to time. Whenever humankind have gone astray, the prophets have come to guide them in the right way which Allah wants them to follow. Many of the prophets preached to their people after receiving Allah's message in a dictated form. These include the Prophets Nuh عليه السلام and Salih عليه السلام. However, to some prophets, Allah has given His message in the form of books or oral texts later compiled in the written form. These books contain the revelations (*wahi*) of Allah. Here are the revealed scriptures of Allah:

The <i>Suhuf</i> (Scrolls)	revealed to the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام
The <i>Tawrat</i> (Torah)	revealed to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام
The <i>Zabur</i> (Psalms)	revealed to the Prophet Dawud عليه السلام
The <i>Injil</i> (Gospel)	revealed to the Prophet Isa عليه السلام
The <i>Quran</i>	revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Thus we see that the Book received by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the Quran.



The Quran was not written by any human being or by angels. It is Allah's own words. These were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by the angel Jibril. These revelations lasted a period of twenty-three years from 610 CE to the death of the Prophet in 632 CE.



The Quran contains 114 chapters. Each chapter is called a *surah*. Every *surah* has a name like *al-Fatihah*, *al-Baqarah*, etc. Each *surah* contains some verses. These verses are known as *ayah* (plural: *ayat*).

The Quran is the final revelation of Allah. It is the only book from Allah which has not changed, that is, it remains in the same form as it was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The Holy Quran deserves our utmost respect. Before reading the Quran we purify ourselves by performing the *wudu* or ablution.

The Life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ



In Chapter 2 we have seen that Allah sends His prophets to us who preach to us His message. We have also read about the *shahadah* which states that ‘there is no god but Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah’.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is known as *Rasulallah*, which means Allah’s messenger. He is Allah’s last prophet and messenger to humankind.

The life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is known as *sirah*. It teaches us many good things. As such we should learn about his life.

We must remember to say ‘*sallallahu alayhi wa sallam*’ (ﷺ) whenever we utter or hear the name of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. This means ‘may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him.’

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah in the year

570 CE. It is known as the 'Year of the Elephant.' Do you know why? Read the story in the box to find out.

The Year of the Elephant

In the year 570 CE, Abrahah, the king of Ethiopia marched with his huge army towards Makkah to destroy the Kabah. His army had a war elephant. However, as the army came to Makkah, the elephant refused to enter into the vicinity of the Kabah and, instead, knelt down before it. Abrahah had to retreat, as his army was pelted with stones by birds.

The Prophet Muhammad's father Abdullah died before he was born. His mother Aminah died when he was only six years old. He was adopted by his grandfather Abd al-Muttalib, who was the head of the Quraysh tribe, the guardians of the Kabah which was situated in Makkah. It was he who gave him the name 'Muhammad,' which means 'worthy of praise.' After the death of Abd al-Muttalib two years later, his uncle Abu Talib took care of him.

As the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ grew up, people came to love and trust him for his gentle nature and truthful ways. Those who came close to him grew to love him. For his truthful and trustworthy nature he was known as *as-Sadiq* (the truthful one) and *al-Amin* (one you can trust).

Under the guidance of Abu Talib, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ became a merchant and soon acquired a reputation for honesty and



hard work. A rich widow Khadijah employed him to trade her goods in Syria.

Impressed by his work and manners, Khadijah asked the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to marry her. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ agreed. It was a happy marriage and they had six children.

Many incidents in the Prophet's life at this time demonstrated his kindness. There was an old woman who hated the Prophet and would throw rubbish at him whenever he passed by her house. One day the woman fell ill. The Prophet went to her house to enquire about her. The old woman realized what a good-natured man the Prophet was. This shows that we should not bear ill-will even towards those who hurt us.

The Prophet also emerged as someone who could solve disputes to the satisfaction of everyone. One day, when he was thirty-five years old, the Kabah was destroyed in a fire. The four chief clans of Makkah rebuilt it. When it was time to put back the Black Stone first laid by the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام, a dispute arose. Each of the four clans wanted to have the honour of putting the stone back.

The Prophet solved the dispute. He placed the sacred stone at the centre of a robe and asked the elders of the four clans to lift the four corners of the robe and carry the stone to the site. Then the

Prophet himself put the Black Stone in its proper place. Thus the problem solved. This demonstrated his ability to lead men and show them the way.

Marriage to Khadijah had given the Prophet the option to lead a comfortable life. But he sought the truth rather than wealth.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ never worshipped idols and his heart always sought the Supreme God. There were many questions in his mind. What was man's purpose in life? Who was the Creator of all? Why did the people worship the idols whom they themselves had created. What did the Creator want of man? He wondered about the creation of the universe. He would often go to the cave of Hira in Mount al-Nur to meditate. On each occasion he would pass several days there in seclusion, seeking the eternal truth.



When he was forty, he went to the cave of Hira as usual to spend the month of Ramadan in seclusion.

It was here that the Prophet had an extraordinary experience.

One night, now known as the *Laylat al-Qadr* or 'the Night of Power and Excellence,' the angel Jibril appeared before him with a message from Allah. The angel Jibril said, 'Read!'

The Prophet said, 'I don't know how to read.'

Then the angel Jibril pressed the Prophet close to him for a while and then released him. Then again he said, 'Read!' At this, the Prophet again answered, "I don't know how to read." Jibril again pressed the Prophet close to him, and after releasing him, asked him to read. The Prophet repeated the same answer, "I don't know how to read." For the third time the angel Jibril pressed the Prophet close to him and said the following words:

Read, in the name of your Lord, who created, created man from a clot of blood. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous who taught man by the pen, taught him what he did not know. (Surah al-Alaq, 96:1-5)

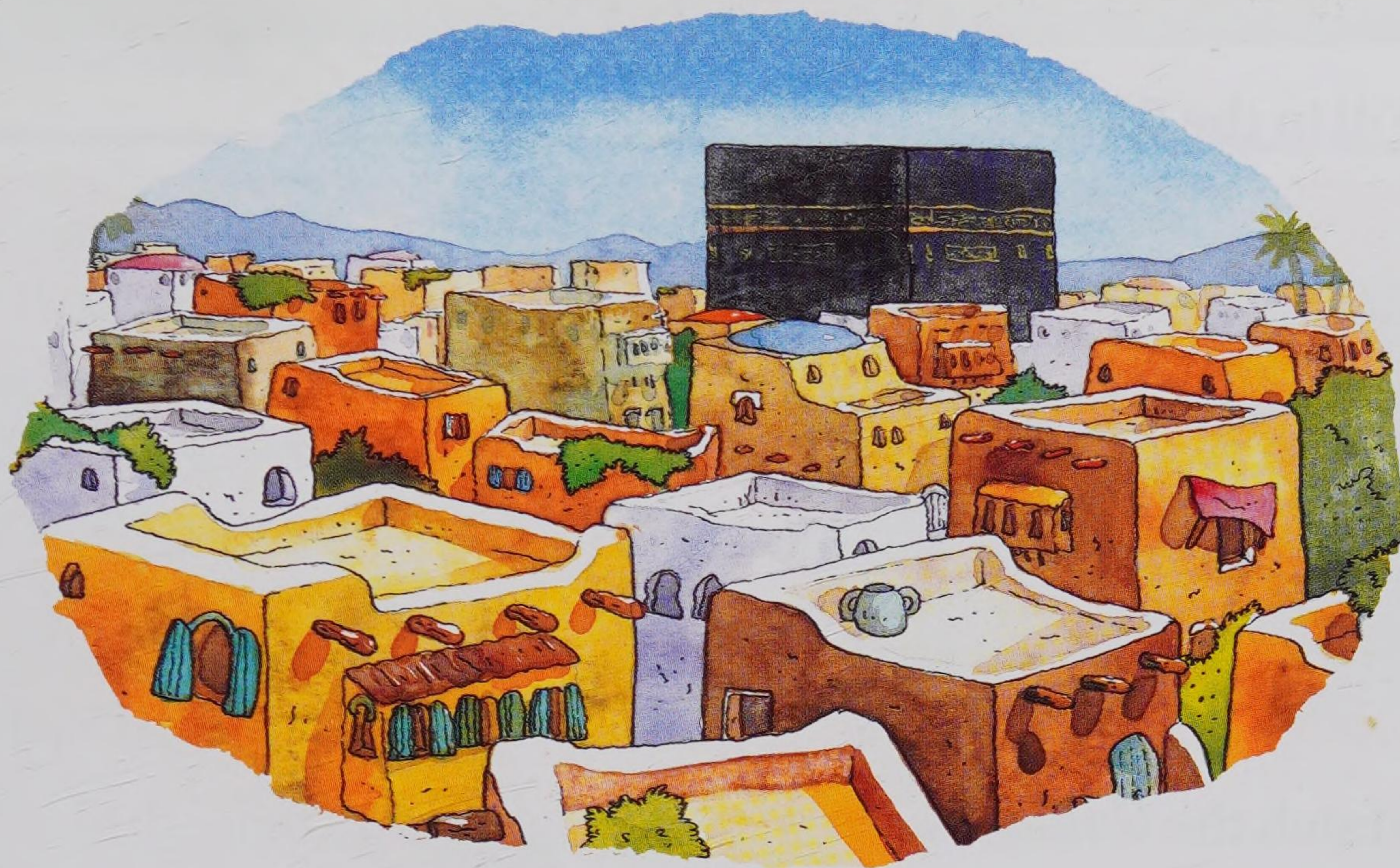
These were the first revealed words of the Quran.

This time the Prophet repeated the words.

The angel Jibril went away.

The experience left the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ confused and afraid. He thought: Who was the visitor? How did he come? What did his words mean?





In a terrified state the Prophet went back home and narrated the incident to his wife Khadijah. Khadijah comforted him with these words: “Never! By Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You keep up good relations with your kith and kin, help the poor and destitute, serve your guests generously and assist the deserving among those afflicted by calamity.”

Then Khadijah took him to her cousin Waraqah ibn Nawfal, and described the incident to him. Waraqah was a scholar of that time. He had a vast knowledge of revealed books. After listening to the incident Waraqah said that the angel was Jibril, who was sent to the previous prophets like Musa, Isa, etc. And Waraqah foretold that he would become a messenger of Allah, and he would be treated with hostility by his tribesmen. After a few days Waraqah died but his words came true. Allah made Muhammad ﷺ His Prophet. The divine inspiration given by the angel Jibril is known as *wahi*, or revelation. After the revelation of the cave of Hira, Allah kept on revealing His messages to the Prophet at different times and in different situations, though there was a pause of about two years after the first revelation.



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Speech and Knowledge Competition 2023

Knowledge Test: History - Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque

Before the arrival of the Israelites, the land of Palestine was inhabited by various ancient peoples and tribes, such as Canaanites, Philistines, Amorites. The most prominent group in the region were the Canaanites. They were an ancient Semitic-speaking people who lived in the area from at least the 3rd millennium BCE. The term "Canaan" itself was often used to refer to this region in ancient times.

Prophet Ibrahim (A) was born in Ur, ancient Mesopotamia (now Iraq). His stance against idolatry caused conflict, leading him from Ur to Harran (in present-day Turkey), where he preached monotheism. Commanded by God, he moved to Canaan (covering modern-day Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria). Facing famine, he and his wife Sarah temporarily relocated to Egypt, then returned to Canaan with Hagar. Obeying God, Ibrahim left Hagar and his son Ishmael in Mecca, where he later built the Kaaba. Ibrahim died in Canaan, buried in Hebron, leaving behind his sons Ishmael in Mecca and Isaac in Canaan.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque, linked with multiple prophets, was first built by Ibrahim (A) after constructing the Kaaba. This came to be known as Beteyel (meaning the House of Allah in Hebrew).

When prophet Yusuf (as) had attained power in Egypt, he invited his family—father, mothers and brothers—to live with him in Egypt. They readily accepted the offer and moved from Palestine to Egypt. No one from Yaqub's (as) family was left to take care of Beteyel/Masjid al-Aqsa. Thus, he gave charge of the masjid to the local inhabitants, the Palestinians.

The Israelite arrived in Canaan (Palestine) in the 13th century BCE with Musa (A).

Prophet Musa (A) was born in Egypt during the Israelites' persecution. To evade Pharaoh's decree to kill Israelite newborns, his mother placed him in the Nile; he was later raised in Pharaoh's household. Fleeing Egypt after an accidental killing, Musa (A) settled in Midian, marrying one of Prophet Shuaib's (A) daughters in exchange for labor. Allah later commanded him to liberate the Israelites from Egypt. Leading them out, Musa parted the Red Sea to escape Pharaoh's army.

Musa guided the Israelites towards Canaan (Palestine), but their refusal to enter it due to fear of formidable inhabitants led Allah to have them wander the desert for 40 years. A later generation eventually entered Canaan.



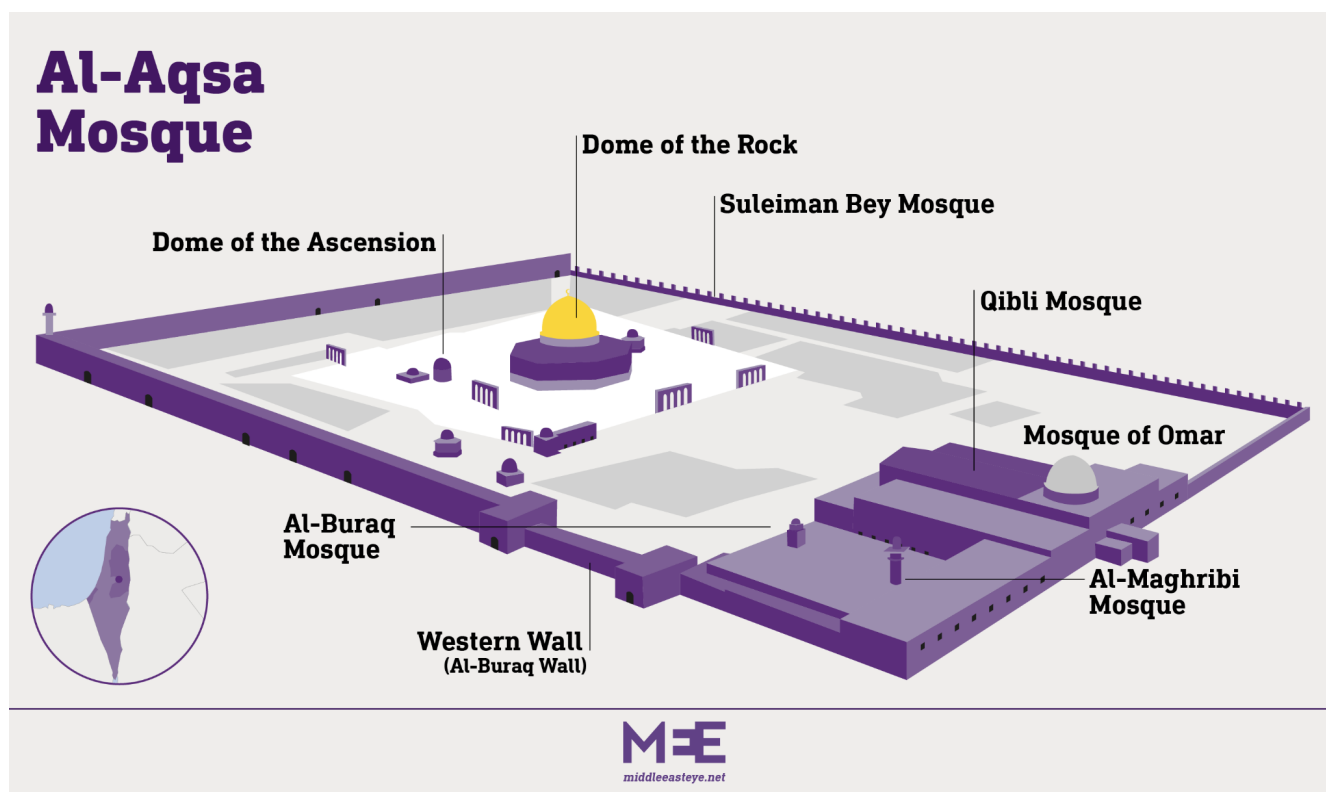
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During Prophet Samuel's (A) time, the leaderless Bani Israel sought a king, leading to Allah appointing Talut. In a subsequent battle against the Philistines, the young shepherd Dawud (David) defeated the giant Jalut (Goliath) with a stone, showcasing his faith and Allah's support, leading to an Israelite victory.

Haram al-Sharif (the noble Sanctuary) or Al-Aqsa Compound or Temple Mount Complex holds immense significance in Islamic religious tradition as well as history. It was Sulayman (as) who rebuilt the temple (Masjid al-Aqsa) with the support and help of the indigenous people, principally the Palestinians. The Babylonian laid siege to Jerusalem and took over the city and Palestine in 587 BC. They destroyed the temple/Masjid al-Aqsa and enslaved all the people. The Persian King Cyrus the Great rescued the Bani Israel after seventy years of slavery in Babylon and permitted them to return to Palestine. In the year 70 CE, the Romans captured Jerusalem and destroyed the temple one more time.



Hazrat Maryam (A) was under the care of Prophet Zakariya (A). She stayed in a mihrab in the Al-Aqsa compound at Jerusalem, where angels used to bring food for her from heaven. Hazrat Isa (A) lived and preached in the Al-Aqsa compounds.



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Al-Aqsa mosque is known as the first qibla of Muslims—the direction toward which Muslims face to offer their salat—as well as the third holiest site in Islam. It is built on the site where the noble Messenger (saws) led all the earlier Prophets in prayer when he was transported by night from Masjid al-Haram before his Miraj (ascension to Heaven). Umar Ibn Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, is the first one then who restored Al-Aqsa. He recognized the sight but nothing was built. When Abdul-Malik Ibn Marwan held the office in the year 66 A.H., he rebuilt Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock.



According to the **Jewish people**, the First Temple (Solomon's Temple) was built on the Al-Aqsa compound during the reign of King Solomon (Prophet Sulaiman) in the 10th century BCE. The temple was the central place of worship for the Jewish people and the primary symbol of their religion and nationhood. It was the most sacred site in ancient Judaism. The First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE during the conquest of Jerusalem, leading to the Babylonian Exile of the Jewish people. The Second Temple was built on the same site following the return of the Jewish people from Babylonian exile around 516 BCE. The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE.

For Christians, Al-Aqsa compounds are significant as part of the historical and religious context in which Jesus lived and preached, and they feature in several New Testament narratives. The First and Second temples are important in Christian tradition because Jesus interacted with these sites. According to the New Testament, Jesus was presented at the Temple as a child, he taught at the Temple during his ministry, and he predicted the destruction of the Second Temple.